

Contributions

THE DEVIL

ALFRED S. HOUGH

Men don't believe in a Devil now,
As their fathers used to do;
They've forced the door of the broadest creed
To let His Majesty thru.
There isn't a print of his cloven foot.
Or a fiery dart from his bow,
To be found in earth or air today,
For the world has voted so.

But who is it mixing the fatal draught
That palsies heart and brain,
And loads the bier of each passing year,
With ten hundred thousand slain?
Who blights the bloom of the land today
With the fiery breath of Hell,
If the Devil isn't, and never was?
Won't somebody rise and tell?

Who dogs the steps of the toiling saint
And digs the pits for his feet?
Who sows the tares in the field of time
Wherever God sows his wheat?
The Devil is voted not to be,
And, of course, the thing is true;
But who is doing the kind of work
The Devil alone should do?

We are told he does not go about
As a roaring lion now;
But whom must we hold responsible
For the everlasting row
To be heard in home, in church, and state.
If the Devil, by a unanimous vote,
Is nowhere to be found?

Wont somebody step the front forthwith,
And make their bow and show
How the frauds and the crimes of a single day
Spring up we want to know.
The Devil was fairly voted out,
And, of course, the Devil is gone;
But simple people would like to know
Who carries his business on.

CHURCH TEMPERATURE

B. C. MOOMAW

Some religious papers are discussing how to keep the church cool. Desiring to be useful we will contribute our mite to the fund of information on this subject. Doubtless it is highly desirable to have the temperature in our sanctuaries comfortably low, and since we are agreed on this point, the means of accomplishing the end in view are not difficult, or far to seek. A church may be kept cool by establishing a refrigerator in the pulpit. We have seen the thing work to the satisfaction of a polar bear. The pastor, Rev. Mr. North, marches in with an air of excessive dignity and reserve, dispensing an atmosphere of frost on the right hand and on the left like a polar benediction. Then the conspicuous absence of the more heavenly elements of grace from his discourse added to the cooling effect, until before long pendent icicles ornamented the stand, and lent the peculiar beauty of the arctics to the shivering scene. Theology and elocution there was a plenty, but not enough love to start a miniature plan of salvation among invisible microbes. The bond of sympathy and the grace of tenderness perhaps existed, but certainly

without any sensible or demonstrable evidence. Spiritual overcoats were in active demand thru-out the services; and a looker on might have imagined that he had stumbled upon a congregation of Esquimaux.

Again we see a church cooled to the solid point by a number of smaller refrigerators installed in the pews. This is also an effective method in use in some churches, and a visitor need never be in any danger of sun stroke, however long the sermon will be, or however fervid. Sometimes it happens that in a church thus provided, considerable heat is radiated from the pulpit, but as there is always a wide space between the preacher and the people, a number of pews designed doubtless for ornament and not for use, all the warmth of the sermon is absorbed by this vacant space so that it never reaches nor disturbs the pews which contain the refrigerator plants. Observed from the pulpit they present a singular appearance which cannot be so aptly described as by the impression they made upon an unfortunate pastor, who said he felt as if there hadn't been any sunshine for a thousand years. Upon strangers and casual visitors they make much the same impression, who are usually made to feel, when they stumble upon one of these churches, that it is a good place to get away from. Pew refrigerators are often a great success, and in some churches they tend to show that religion in that locality has, in its slow evolution, only reached the glacial age, and that the preacher was so badly "frozen in" that you saw him, as it were, thru ice, like a curiosity in a museum encased in glass.

Yes, there are several ways to keep a church cool this hot weather, and we can't tell for the life of us why the members of those churches should want to go to the country, or to the mountains, or to the seaside to keep cool. Their incomparable home facilities ought to content them, and all they have to do is to take up summer quarters in the church. Sometimes it happens that there is a combination of pulpit and pew refrigerators, which in spiritual science furnishes a parallel to liquid air in physical science. Liquid air is a recent discovery, and it is the coldest substance in the world. It is so cold that a chunk of solid ice dropped into it will make it boil, there being such a vast difference between the temperature of the liquid air and the ice that the latter by comparison is white hot. We are unable to particularize the parallel. It must be understood in these general terms. The tendency to overdo a thing is one of the characteristics of human nature. In religion, however, it doesn't affect very many people one way or the other. The Lukewarmians are still a numerous sect, and they have undoubtedly mastered the

art of church cooling in a most admirable manner. They never let it get too cold for comfort, nor too hot for comfort. They are like the little boy who said that he was neither good nor bad, but just comfortable.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

G. W. RENCH

Was the last supper of our Lord the Jews' Passover? We have already shown from two different sources that our Lord's last Supper could not have been the Passover. Our last argument was that it did not come at the right time to be the Passover. I showed that the *right time* for observing the Passover was still recognized by both Mark and Luke, hence folly to talk about a change in the time. I want to show now that there are many passages of Scripture that are utterly meaningless if Christ did observe the Jewish Passover at this time. These are facts and we must deal with them in studying this question. We shall begin with Matthew. If Jesus observed the Passover, how do you explain Matt. 26: 4, 5. "And they took counsel together that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill him. But they said, Not during the feast, lest a tumult arise among the people." If Jesus kept the feast, they *did* take him contrary to their plan. Matt. 26: 17. (Revised) "Now on the first day of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, Where wilt thou that we make ready for thee to eat the passover." If Jesus kept the Passover, they did not come when this says, but came on the *first day of the feast of unleavened bread*.

Here is what one of the best commentaries says on this verse: Also Luke 22: 7: "the day of unleavened bread—strictly the 15th Nisan (part of our March and April) after the Paschal lamb was killed; but here the 14th (Thursday). Into the difficult questions raised on this we can not here enter." This is about the way that they all talk when they try to make Jesus keep the Passover. No one can make any sense of this verse, as well as many others, when they start wrong. Start with the idea that Jesus kept the Passover and whether you read Matthew, Mark, Luke or John you will soon find yourself involved in difficulties and contradictions from which *no scholar has ever been able to free himself*. Keep in your mind *facts* when you read. That the apostolic church followed the example of Jesus in this Supper. That the lamb was killed on the afternoon of the 14th, when Jesus ate his Supper at the beginning of the 14th. That when Jesus or the apostles use the term "Passover" they mean the real Jewish Passover, of course, at its right time (the 15th), and not the supper they ate. What if the apostles did think that Jesus would keep the Passover, not knowing that he would